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Paramedics playing Santa

IAN MCINROY
Innisfil Examiner

They are the life-saving emergency responders at car crashes, house fires and other disasters.

Now, once again, Simcoe County paramedics are making Christmas special for needy children with the 11th annual County of Simcoe Paramedic Services Toy Drive.

It kicked off Friday, Nov. 15 at the Barrie North Paramedic Station and continues until Dec. 15.

Last year's toy drive was a big success and collected more than 7,400 new toys, more than $9,000 in cash/gift cards, and more than 2,000 pounds of food for less fortunate families across the region.

About 300 paramedics work out of 15 stations (and two satellite stations) across the county and each station will have a bin outside where residents can drop off their donations of new, unwrapped toys, monetary/gift card donations and non-preishable food items.

The toy drive, in partnership with the Simcoe County Paramedic Association, got a huge boost on Friday.

A major donation of more than 2,000 new toys from the charity fund-raising events division of Canadian Property Stars (CPS) has got the drive off to a great start.

"On behalf of the County of Simcoe I want to thank Canadian Property Stars for their generous donation of new toys," said Warden Cal Patterson.

"This donation is a great way to kick off the 2013 toy drive and will help give children in Simcoe County a memorable Christmas," he said.

Organizations benefitting from the drive include: Children's Aid Society, Coldwater Food Bank, Sharing Place Orillia, Salvation Army Orillia, Salvation Army Collingwood, Elmvale Food Bank, Kinnetts 'Toys for Kids' Wasaga Beach, Wasaga Beach Food Bank, Good Shepard Food Bank, Hope Acres (Salvation Army), Tottenham/Beeton Food Bank, Holy Martyrs of Japan and Christmas Cheer.

"The success of our employee-led toy raising campaign is due wholly to our hard working team who chose to run the campaign in our 'off-season' rather than take a well-deserved vacation," said Mandy Hambly, CPS vice-president of marketing, adding that George Osei and Taylor Croft of CPS have played a big part in bringing joy and fun to the lives of children this holiday season.

.

SEE PAGE 2

IAN MCINROY
Innisfil Examiner

The Simcoe County Paramedic Services Toy Drive received a donation of more than 2,000 new toys from Canadian Property Stars on Friday. Donations of new, unwrapped toys, monetary/gift card donations and food will be accepted at paramedic stations and other various locations, events and parades across Simcoe County until Dec. 15. Paramedics at the Barrie North station on Bayfield Street, along with some young helpers, were thrilled to show off the donations.

Transit gets another look

MIRIAM KING
Barrie Examiner

Innisfil Coun. Ken Simpson wasn't ready to let the issue of public transit in Innisfil fall by the wayside.

He put forward a motion in council on Nov. 20 asking staff to prepare a request for expressions of interest (RFEI) for the provision of public transit, and especially handicapped-accessible transportation in the town.

Town CAO John Skorobohacz pointed out that the additional staff work was not part of the current budget.

The previous work done — on a possible partnership with the City of Barrie to provide transit in the north half of the municipality — had not justified moving forward at this time, "at the current level of interest and cost."

"Basically, I thought we had put this to bed. It was a non-issue," Coun. Doug Lougheed said.

SEE PAGE 2

Innisfil
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Transit findings to be in 2015 budget

FROM PAGE 1

Council was advised by staff that if any partnership opportunities or grants came up they would bring that before council, but at the moment transit is not an active issue.

Ken Simpson disagreed.

"I need to know that the door is going to be open for accessible transit and regular transit. I'm not prepared to punish people because they didn't show up to a public meeting," he said, referring to the poor turnout at a public meeting on transit.

"It's an important issue, it's not an election issue," he added.

Preparing a RFEI comes with a cost, director of infrastructure Andy Campbell said.

"That does take staff time, which does cost money. Maybe $10,000 worth of costs we'll have to find here," he said.

Coun. Rod Boyton opposed the motion.

"To me, this speaks of redoing the whole damn thing over again. It just think this is a make-work project: just redoing what we just finished doing."

Coun. Lynn Dollin called it disrespectful to staff to reopen the issue of transit at this time.

"Just because we didn't like the answer, doesn't mean we can ask to (do) it again," she said.

But Mayor Barb Baguley supported the motion.

She noted that there may be opportunities to provide accessible transit that are out there, "but they have to be asked."

"The way I looked at it was finishing a job we started," said Coun. Maria Baier, who seconded Simpson's motion. "To really assess it fully is what I've been interested in."

An amendment to the main motion to have staff prepare an RFEI for public transit and present the findings for council's consideration for the 2015 budget process went to a recorded vote and passed 5-4. Councillors Richard Simpson, Rod Boynton, Lynn Dollin and Doug Lougheed voted against.

Coun. Dollin then introduced an other amendment that would require the RFEI to request options to service the entire Town of Innisfil.

Campbell warned that the widened scope would increase costs.

"Certainly this takes more work than previously we have done. We would have to look at all centres. Certainly this increases the project scope and costs."

Another recorded vote saw Dollin's amendment to the amendment defeated 7-2.

In a final recorded vote, and amended motion to move forward with an RFEI for 2015 was approved 7-2.

> **"Certainly (a request for expressions of interest) takes more work than previously we have done. We would have to look at all centres. Certainly this increases the project scope and costs."**
>
> *Innisfil director of infrastructure Andy Campbell*

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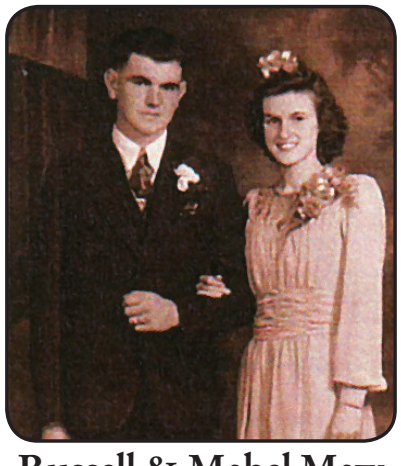
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What is the Innisfil ideaLAB?

The adventure begins on Tuesday Nov. 26 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Innisfil ideaLAB, located at 873 Innisfil Beach Road, will officially open its doors to the public!

Intrigued by what you might find inside?

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Regular hours of operation will commence after the opening Nov. 26: Tuesday to Friday – 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Need to know more? Get connected at www.facebook/innisfilidealab, follow us on twitter @innisfilidealab, or get on board, come in and become part of the adventure!

Paramedics will travel to area businesses to pick up donations

FROM PAGE 1

Besides paramedic stations, there will be other locations, events and parades across Simcoe County where donations can be dropped off as well grocery stores

For corporations or staff Christmas parties, arrangements can be made to have paramedics come to area businesses to pick up donations.

All donations will be distributed to local children and families in need by charitable organizations working in partnership with Simcoe County Paramedic Services.

To find out more, visit www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ps/events/toy-drive/index.htm for toy drive updates and more information.

Christmas Cheer magic in Innisfil

MIRIAM KING
Innisfil Examiner

The Barrie & District Christmas Cheer campaign was launched in Innisfil on Nov. 15 under the giant wooden rocking horse at Munro's Furnishings at Innisfil Beach Road and Highway 400

This is the second year that Innisfil has been incorporated into the annual food and toy drive.

Last year, Christmas Cheer assisted about 1,500 families in the Barrie area struggling at this time of year, and 125 families in Innisfil.

The target this year is to raise $235,000, noted Chair Owen McGee

It's the same as last year's goal, although in 2012, he said, "We didn't quite reach our goal. We came close, though."

This year, plans call for more sponsorships and more corporate donations, in addition to the donations from generous residents, of non-perishable food and new, unwrapped toys for kids ages up to 10 years old.

The goal is to provide each family with a hamper of food including a frozen turkey, treats, grocery vouchers to purchase fresh vegetables and the perishables that are part of the holiday feast, and enough food to feed a family for one week.

Christmas Cheer also provides age-appropriate toys for children from infancy to 10 years, and gift certificates for older children, from 11 to 18 years.

Between 135 and 150 Christmas Cheer hampers will be provided to registered Innisfil families.

Residents can drop off donations of non-perishable food, including canned meats, tuna, soups, cookies and candies, new and unwrapped toys — including batteries if the toy is battery-operated — books for children up to 10 at the Innisfil Town Hall, the rec complex, Stroud Community Centre, Lefroy Community Centre, Innisfil Hydro, Fire Station No. 1 in Alcona, and any branch of the Innisfil Public Library.

Innisfil Christmas Cheer chair Val Blaker shared a success story during the launch on Friday.

She received a phone call from a mother following the distribution of gifts thanking her and asking how on earth she had done it: her daughter had asked for a Cabbage Patch doll, and not only did Blaker send a Cabbage Patch doll, the doll had the same hair colour and name as the little girl.

"It's the magic of Christmas," Blaker smiled.

In need of assistance this Christmas?

In-person applications for Christmas Cheer will be taking place at the Innisfil Town Hall, 2101 Innisfil Beach Rd. on Thursday, November 28 from 2 to 8 p.m.; Friday, November 29 from 2 to 8 p.m., and Monday, December 2 from 2 to 8 p.m.

Make a difference in a family's holiday season this year by donating generously to Christmas Cheer.

For more information call 211 or visit www.christmascheer.com

Toy donations

Infant to two years old.

Eight to 10 years old, both boys and girls.

Books for all ages, infant to 10 years old

Food items

All non-perishable foods are needed.

Especially appreciated: canned meats and fish, cookies and candies.

Please no glass containers, expired or damaged goods.

MIRIAM KING Innisfil Examiner

Launching the Barrie & District Christmas Cheer campaign in Innisfil on Friday, Nov. 15 were, from left, South Simcoe Police Const. Rob Enwright, Mike Blaker, mom Val Blaker, Innisfil Hydro president George Shaparew, South Simcoe Police Chief Rick Beazley, Christmas Cheer chair Owen McGee and Innisfil Mayor Barb Baguley.

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opinion

Hurry back to the black

Canadians should of course be happy with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's economic update.

On Tuesday he projected an even better financial future. We were originally anticipating a meagre $800-million surplus in fiscal 2015-2016. But now we're on track to be $3.7 billion to the good. That number could grow as the date gets closer.

Flaherty is playing it safe and we applaud his approach. But we're still left scratching our heads over a couple of issues.

As our Mark Dunn reported Wednesday, the same day Flaherty made his announcement the Conservative government also announced a $45,500 handout to renovate a golf course clubhouse in New Brunswick.

Really?! This sort of pork barrel spending, especially when we still have a deficit, is unacceptable to taxpayers.

While the Conservatives have been trimming here and there, let's not forget that they created some of the bloating.

According to a Parliamentary Budget Office report, the public payroll grew by 34,000 individuals between 2006 and 2012 — on Harper's watch.

The economic update proudly noted that the "federal deficit has been reduced by almost two-thirds." But that $56-billion deficit was entirely of the Conservative's creation, as a response to the recession following the financial crisis.

"Why did we run the big deficit?" Flaherty said during his Edmonton Q & A session. "Because we were concerned that we would have millions and millions of Canadians out of work and that we would have a long, dark, deep recession."

That may be. But isn't that just good ol' fashioned liberal Keynesian thinking?

We get that political leaders naturally gravitate to the centre when they get elected in a liberal democracy like Canada. After all, the wise ones remember they're governing for all the people. Not just those who elected you.

We're hoping that's what will save Canada if Justin Trudeau wins in 2015.

But Canadians did elect a Conservative government with a majority in 2011. Is it too much to ask to see some fiscally conservative measures that are tougher than, say, a Liberal like Paul Martin would have implemented?

Cut the pork barreling. Cut the increased payroll via attrition.

Get back to black ASAP.

column

The season of giving has begun to ramp up

CAL PATTERSON

SIMCOE COUNTY

With November coming to a close, the holiday season has arrived in Simcoe County. Soon our streets and homes will be filled with decorations and lights, retail areas will be bustling with shoppers and snow will cover our vast landscape.

The holidays are always a great time to pause and reflect on the year that was.

The county has had a busy year implementing programs to improve services such as waste collection and diversion, supporting newcomers to our community, showing leadership in seniors care with the opening of Georgian Village and supporting our economy through economic, infrastructure, tourism and cultural initiatives.

We have made food, agriculture and the environment key priorities - and we have developed a framework to provide greater support to those most in need with our 10-year affordable housing and homelessness prevention strategy.

The County of Simcoe and its staff are also proud supporters of so many wonderful causes around our region, including the United Way of Greater Simcoe County.

The 2013 Warden's Gala raised more than $75,000 towards the United Way and staff initiatives are underway, with the goal of raising more than $90,000 towards the United Way campaign.

Additionally, the county is a proud supporter of local hospital foundations and post-secondary educational institutions, among other charitable organizations in the region.

One of the initiatives I'm most proud of every year is our Paramedic Services Toy Drive.

Each holiday season, paramedics from the County of Simcoe volunteer their time to collect toys, monetary donations and food for local charitable organizations that support families in need throughout the entire year, but especially during the holiday season.

The annual paramedic toy drive began in 2002, when paramedics stationed in Orillia began collecting new unwrapped toys.

Since its inception, the toy drive has collected more than 38,970 toys, $68,800 in monetary and gift card donations, and 9,000 pounds of food from the generous residents of Simcoe County.

All toy drive donations are distributed to local children and families in need by charitable organizations working in partnership with Simcoe County Paramedic Services.

Donations can be made now through Dec. 15 at the County of Simcoe Administration Centre, 1110 Highway 26 in Midhurst between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and at all Simcoe County Paramedic Stations where outdoor drop boxes are available.

Paramedics will also take part in events and parades throughout the county.

The full 2013 Toy Drive calendar can be viewed at simcoe.ca/dpt/ps/events/toydrive/.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season! Bundle up and enjoy the festivities in Simcoe County with friends and family.

Cal Patterson is warden of County of Simcoe.

letters

Two-tier health-care system coming

I am concerned with the way our health care is becoming a two-tier system.

Why is it that the government can stop OHIP coverage for certain medical care, while government employees are all covered for them 100% of the time with their group benefits?

Both myself and a close friend of mine need surgery. I have an unstable shoulder and he has a torn ACL in his knee.

I work for a fairly large company and have what is considered generous benefits. After surgery I will require physiotherapy, which my company benefits cover to an amount of $500.

I will probably need at least six weeks of physio, and this will not come close to that amount, so to properly heal from surgery I will be out of pocket a lot of money.

My friend works for the government; when he gets his knee surgery, not only will his time off work be covered, but physio is covered 100%.

We have similar wages and similar experience, but the only difference is that he works for the government and I do not.

How can the government stop OHIP coverage for things for the general population, but yet continue to fund it for its workers at a level which is much higher than that of an average worker in Ontario?

This boggles my mind when you see how well government employees are treated compared to how private employees and citizens.

They can vote to take away our benefits, knowing full well they still have them for themselves.

Kevin Gee
Innisfil

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

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Two new recovery high schools coming to Simcoe County area

IAN MCINROY Barrie Examiner

Quest Collegiate and Recovery Centre founder Eileen Shewen is preparing to launch two recovery high school campuses in Simcoe County in 2014 for teens recovering from an addiction and their families.

IAN MCINROY
Innisfil Examiner

The Simcoe County area will soon be home to two high school campuses for teens recovering from an addiction.

Quest Collegiate and Recovery Centres will be located on two sites with a total of about 80 students, according to founder Eileen Shewen.

Based on American models of recovery education, Quest Collegiate and Recovery Centres allow students with a history of substance abuse to complete their Ontario secondary school diploma in a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment devoid of negative peer influence.

A fundraiser and information expo is being held at Tangle Creek Golf and Country Club from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 28.

"This is the first integrated educational and aftercare program of its kind in Canada, offered right here in Simcoe County," said Shewen. "We hope this event will highlight the challenges teens face in traditional high schools while recovering from an addiction and how recovery schools address these challenges."

According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 13% of teens in Ontario may be dependent on illicit substances or prescription drugs while approximately 18% report harmful drinking with no regional differences in abuse patterns.

That equates to about 3,500 Simcoe County high school students who are struggling with substance abuse and another 4,500 with hazardous or harmful drinking issues.

"As parents, we deceive ourselves into thinking that this is something that happens to other peoples' kids," Shewen said. "But when it does happen, we call it a 'phase.' Substance abuse is not something kids simply outgrow."

Quest Collegiate and Recovery Centres also include onsite group therapy, family therapy and counseling with additional outside resources as needed on a case-by-case basis. Between 50% to 90% of teens who reintegrate into their former environment after treatment end up using again, creating a life-long cycle of treatment and relapse.

"We are focused on recovery and relapse prevention," Shewen said. "We want to dispel the misconceptions about kids in recovery and give a voice to the many families and students who are dealing with this issue."

Final negotiations are currently underway to determine where the two sites will be located, but both will be in proximity to recreational and social amenities in more rural settings to remove outside influences.

Both proposed sites are existing facilities that would be revitalized and retooled to support the students, she said, adding that Recovery Centres are highly structured and controlled environments.

"Protective factors are engineered into the school day and include certified onsite recovery coaches, onsite counseling and therapy for students and families, student leadership and peer mentoring programs, and student led recovery workshops," Shewen said. "We are not about punishing poor behaviour. We are about celebrating personal achievement.

"Random drug testing is part of the program to ensure we catch slips before they become falls and relapse prevention is a strong component of our programming."

Students are held accountable to their commitments to abstinence and recovery plans are monitored and evaluated regularly.

"At Quest Collegiate, we don't even like to use the word addiction.

"We are not about addiction, we are about the person and how we can support their life long recovery," she said. "We have spoken with parents of teens who are currently struggling with addiction, who are trying to stay clean after treatment, who are concerned that their son or daughter is going down that path now, and about how powerless parents feel in helping their kids."

Shewen said said local and regional business leaders, as well as public sector leaders, will attend the Nov. 28 event and become involved at the ground level.

For more information, contact her at info@questcollegiate.org or by calling 705-262-7372.

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GDHS awards

MIRIAM KING Innisfil Examiner

Jenni Murrell, centre, presents the trophy for Most Points in Vegetables to Mario Rea and Eveline Teras at the Gilford & District Horticultural Society AGM held at the Churchill Community Centre on Sunday.

MIRIAM KING
Innisfil Examiner

The Gilford & District Horticultural Society wrapped up a spectacular season on Sunday, Nov. 17, with its AGM, Potluck Dinner and presentation of awards and trophies, at the Churchill Community Centre.

The 2013 season saw a 46% increase in the number of exhibitors, in the monthly Flower Shows - from 26 in 2012, to 38 - and a remarkable 652 entries, in everything from House plants and floral arrangements, to Roses, Irises and Chrysanthemums.

Trophies were presented to:

Most Points in Flower Show Specimens - Jenni Murrell

Most Points in Floral Design "A" - Jenni Murrell

Most Points in Floral Design "B" - Lucy Valente

Most Points in Vegetables - tie between Mario Rea and Eveline Teras

Most Points House plants - Jenni Murrell

Most Points for Rose Shows, Most Fragrant Rose Award, and Best Rose Memorial Award - Victor Foster.

Best King Alfred Daffodil, Best Chrysanthemum - Jenni Murrell

Best Iris, Best Peony, Best Gladiolus Awards - Judith Matchett

Best Oriental Lily - Brenda Wauchope

Largest Spanish Onion, and $50 prize from Lakeview Gardens garden centre - Mario Rea

Presidents Awards - Judith Matchett, Art Harper

Recognition Certificates - Mona Rea, Bill Hubbard

The Horticultural Society also presented a special award, an original painting by local artist Kathryn Bury, to Glenn and Judith Rogers, for their ongoing contributions to the South Innisfil Arboretum.

Not only have they been instrumental in maintaining the Arboretum, Glenn serving as head grounds-keeper, this summer Judith Rogers helped to replace an overgrown perennial flower bed with a Native Woodland bed, filled with drought-resistant native species.

The effort won the GDHS the Helen & Earl Cox Civic Beautification Trophy, presented by Ontario Horticultural Association District 16.

This is the final year that the Horticultural Society will have sole responsibility for the Arboretum. Although members can still volunteer, the Town of Innisfil will be assuming the operation of the Arboretum, as of June 2014.

"We all value the incredible work done by the GDHS," said Innisfil Mayor Barb Baguley. "The Town is assuming the Arboretum because of the taxing work... knowing that the backbone is the Horticultural Society.

"Without the Gilford & District Horticultural Society we wouldn't have an arboretum."

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#103-75 Ellen 700 sq.ft. 1 bdrm, 1 bath **$159,500 MLS#1303498**
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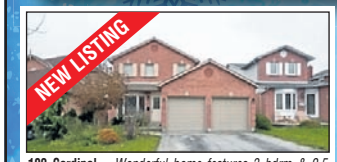
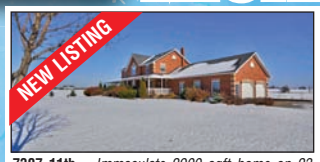


102 Cardinal – *Wonderful home features 3 bdrm & 2.5 Baths including a lg master ensuite. The main floor holds a bright eat in kitchen w/ extra cupboard space, family rm w/ newer napoleon wood fp, & separate dining/living room combo. Hardwood & ceramics throughout (no carpets!) & A finished bsmt that includes a lg recroom & an separate office/den. A/c, newer roof, newer windows, new grg doors & brand new motor in furnace. A must see.* ***DIRECTIONS: CUNDLES TO CARTWRIGHT TO CARDINAL ST.*** ***$294,900***

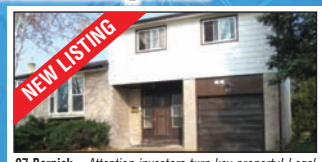


7307 11th – *Immaculate 2900 sqft home on 23 acres. Located bw barrie & thornton. Beautiful & spacious 3 bdrm, 2.1 Bath. Main floor w/ lg foyer, ofc, den, family rm w/ gas fp, huge eat-in kitchen w/ island, breakfast bar & wine storage. Enjoy laudry, loads of storage & 2 pc bath. Walk up from bsmt or main floor to oversized 3 car grg. Salt water inground pool w/ waterfall & pool shed. Lg mstr w/ 5 pc ensuite & huge closet. 10+* ***$780,000***

42 Carr – *just over 1500sqft of living space. This 3.1 bdrm home features 3.5 baths, hardwoods, laminates & ceramics, eat-in kitchen, sep livrm/ dinrm, family room w/ wood burning fireplace, bsmt is finished w/ bdrm, rec room, 3 pc bath & kitchenette. Spacious master w/ ensuite. Enjoy great size backyard that is fully fenced.Needs some work. Plz allow 24hrs notice for appts.* ***$299,900***

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 12-1:30

1491 Gill Rd. *Spacious 1658 sqft home on deep lot. Enjoy 4 bdrms, 1 bath, newly updated ktchn, gleaming hardwood floors, new carpets in bdrm, newer windows & roof. W/O from master bdrm, eat-in ktchn & from lg family room with gas fp! Lg d/r, spacious separate l/r & fabulous wrap around deck to the very private treed back yard. Enjoy the serenity of country living just minutes to Barrie. New furnace & water pump last yr. A must see.* ***DIRECTIONS ST VINCENT TO DORAN TO GILL RD*** ***$329,900***



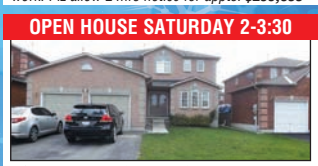
97 Bernick – *Attention investors turn key property! Legal registered duplex just steps to College w/amazing cashflow. Over $3800 in monthly rental income! Over 60k in recent upgrades-roof(2013), furnace (09), windows, ktchn,bath, flrng (upgraded cont frm 2011-2013),windows! Perfect location w/ a w/o from kitchen onto a lg deck over looking the park & the property has all the amenities renters are looking for.* ***$380,000***

353 Cundles – *Beautiful family home on large lot. This spacious 2400sqft 4.1 Bdrm & 2.5 Bathroom home features a fabulous lg entry foyer with granite flooring, lg eat-in kitchen with pantry, separate livrm & dining room, beautiful family room with fireplace & hardwood flooring. Basement is partially finished with a bedroom. Enjoy beautiful verandah & landscaped 63' lot. This is a must see.* ***$359,900***

5840 Old Mill Rd. *Immaculate & stunning 2100 sqft bungalow on 1.16 acres! This fabulous 3.1 bdrm 3 bath home features hrdwds, ceramics, granite & marble throughout. Enjoy a lg granite kitchen w/ loads of counter & cupboard space, ceramic backsplash, island w/ breakfast bar & eat-in area w/walk out to huge yard. Spacious living rm w/ gas fp & separate dining rm decorated in style! Finished bsmt with 1 bdrm + den & huge open rec rm! 10+++.* ***$575,000***

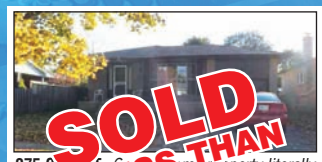
Massive *3,400 sqft on huge pie shaped yard with no rear neighbours. 4 bdrms, 3.5 baths, mst with ensuite & reading nook. Cathedral ceilings, ceramics & hardwoods. Finished bsmt. New Roof, AC/Furnace 5 yrs old.* ***$420,000***

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 2-3:30



13 Irene Dr: *beautiful 2713sqft home w 4 lg bdrms, 2.2 Bathrm & is move in ready! Gleaming oak hdwd & ceramics throughout main flr. Enjoy spacious eat-in kitchen w/ pantry & walk out to lg 9x21 deck, ofc, laundry, sep livrm/dinrm, fam rm w/ gas fp, lovely skylight on 2nd lvl & in bdrm. Brand new carpets in bdrms. Mstr w/ walk-in closet, 4 pc ensuite w/ jacuzzi & sep shower. 2Nd bdrm w/ 2pc ensuite. Rough in bsmt for bathrm. 10+* ***$379,900***

2 Fitzroy Terrace: *popular allendale location on quiet court. Lovely 4 bdrm, 1.2 Baths, nicely landscaped lot, walkout from main floor family room with gas fp to deck. Home features spanish style loft family room. Spacious kitchen w/ eating area. Formal dining room off the kitchen & living room.* ***$359,900***



275 Co *[illegible] property literally step[illegible] room home with room [illegible] room in basement. Rents for 2200 a month inclusive. Main house area has laminate floors, t.V included. 24 Hr notice required to see bedrooms. No notice to see common areas.* ***$270,000***

6th Line - *Country living! Enjoy this spacious 1900 that sits on huge 100 x 150ft lot. This 3/4 acre property features drilled will and cistern, 2 grdn sheds, huge 20 x 30 wrkshp with separate meter & 2 driveways. This 2 bdrm 1 bath home has newer windows and ac, furnace 10 yrs old. Spacious livingroom with w/o to sun room. Large rec room, eat-in kitchen. A must see, just minutes to Barrie.* ***$220,000***

Visit our website for a more detailed listing & to view more pictures at www.BarrieHome.Net or Visit Our Blog at blog.barriehome.net

It's easy to recycle old appliances

(NC) From blenders to espresso makers, small household appliances are a staple of holiday gift-giving, so it's worth a discussion about responsibility.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2011, Canadians spent $238.7 million on small electrical appliances in December alone, up 113 per cent from the monthly average for the year. Since these gifts often represent the replacement of old or broken models, this increase in sales can quickly translate into a surge in electrical waste generation.

The Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) reports that Canadians generate approximately 30 million tonnes of garbage every year and only recycle about 30 per cent of that material.

Despite a province-wide recycling program offering free drop-off of electrical products, some of this material still makes its way into the garbage.

"We see a spike in the amount of materials returned for recycling at our facilities after the holidays," says Julie Robertson, program coordinator at ElectroRecycle, B.C.'s small appliance and power tool recycling program. "But the fear is that the landfills are still seeing an increase too."

ElectroRecycle is a not-for-profit program first launched in October 2011. It provides an environmentally friendly alternative for electrical products that would otherwise end up in landfills, including blenders, vacuums, treadmills and sewing machines. The program is the first of its kind in Canada and the only government approved program for these products in B.C.

To date, the program has collected more than 5.2 million kilograms of electrical products, equivalent to around 80,000 reindeer.

"We know everyone is busy, especially during the holidays," Robertson adds, "so we've tried to make the recycling process as easy as possible." She points out that the program accepts more than 300 types of electrical products free-of-charge at over 135 drop-off locations around the province.

More information is available at www.electrorecycle.ca.

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Is your home flood proof?

(NC)—Over the years most homeowners can expect to experience at least one form of water damage to their home. It could be their washing machine hose that splits, their pipes that freeze and burst, the dishwasher that leaks, toilet that overflows, or water heater that fails.

Any one of these conditions can lead to expensive property damage, and destruction of personal belongings such as photographs, furniture or computer data – items that are often irreplaceable.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, more than seven times as many insurance claims are caused by water damage and freezing (17 per cent) than by theft (2 per cent). Of those water related claims, 60 per cent were caused by faulty indoor appliances or plumbing leaks, 25 per cent were caused by heavy rain or flooding and 11 per cent caused by sewers or sump-pumps that overflowed.

Preventing a water leak from causing extensive damage is even more crucial now with the trend towards homeowners investing thousands of dollars in their basements creating home theatres, play rooms, guest rooms and laundry rooms.

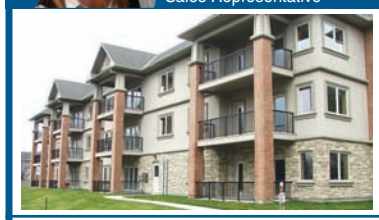
These flooding events can lead to several inconveniences and unexpected costs such as having to relocate while the problem is cleaned up (in severe cases), having to replace damaged items and most importantly dealing with the health problems from the mold and mildew caused by the water damage.

"Flooding events often go undetected for hours causing extensive damage to your home and personal belongings," said Patrice De Luca, vice president of marketing and business development for Reliance Protectron Security Services, a leader in home security services who offer, among their suite of products and services, affordable solutions to help thwart the threat of water damage.

According to De Luca today's security systems are capable of monitoring much more than just intrusion detection devices like motion detectors, door/window contacts and glassbreaks. Flood sensors, water flow switches, temperature sensors and many other devices can be installed and linked to a remote monitoring centre that protects homes 24 hours a day to help minimize and, if detected early enough (like for a sump pump with a high water level sensor), prevent losses due to environmental factors with specially trained professional operators standing by and dispatching appropriate emergency services if required.

De Luca says "the latest technology in security systems (when monitored by a professional monitoring centre) can even allow for the monitoring and detection of water damage in your home from a distance by wireless transmission (TeleGARD) on your cell phone or PC at work for example." More information on protecting your home while you're away is available online at www.protectron.com.

www.newscanada.com



Maintenance Free Living in Elmvale Tired of shovelling snow? Yard work? Welcome to Maplecrest Court in Elmvale, an adult lifestyle community. New appointed units offer quality and design you come to expect from Hedbern Homes. 1 & 2 bedroom units are available and range in sizes from 787 sq. Ft to 1321 sq. Ft. Prices range from $184,900.00 to $279,900.00. Exquisite finishes include 9 ft ceilings, ceramic tiles in all wet areas, in suite laundry and 6 appliances are included. Don't delay call Elaine or Al for further info and showing information.

Apto Glen Estates "Build your dream home on one of these Executive lots ranging in sizes from 1.5 to 2.8 acres. Prices range from $144,900.00 to $240,000.00. All lots have mature trees, building restrictions and covenants are in place to protect your investment, a short drive to Barrie or Elmvale. Seller may consider a Mortgage back. H.S.T. is in addition to the purchase price, all development charges and building permits are in addition to the purchase price and paid by the Buyer. ½ of the lots are sold out don't miss your opportunity call Elaine or Al for further information.

Professional offices main floor 1200 square feet just renovated includes two private offices reception area large boardroom could be two more offices, two washrooms, kitchenette, plenty of parking; utilities included $ 1000.00 per month plus H S T for the first year. ****PLEASE NOTE** Landlord will renovate into whatever suits your needs for your small business, Zoned EM4???** Call Elaine or Al to set up a appointment. **MLS #1306937**

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1:30-3:30 - 1044 Belle Aire Beach Road $569,900. ***DIRECTIONS: Yonge St South to 5th Line towards the lake to Belle Aire Beach.*** Come and view this exquisite custom built bungalow offering more than 3000 square feet of finished living area. 4 bedrooms (2 up/2 down), 3 full baths, main floor powder room, granite, granite, granite! Exceptional finishes throughout this wonderful home including hardwood, fully finished lower level, triple car garage, too many features to mention. See You Sunday

Homes are under the weather in the unwelcome winter

(NC) With the weather being labelled as the number one homewrecker, homeowners should take extra precautions during the winter season, warns Western Canada's largest network of insurance brokers.

Everything from high winds and what seem like 40days and 40nights of strong rains on the West Coast, to wild pipe-popping swings in temperatures across snow-bound Canada, can lead to calamity at home, says Denise Lang, regional vice president at Western Financial Group, a company providing car, property, and life insurance to more than 790,000 customers.

With a career in claims spanning more than two decades, Lang stresses that weather-related damage is responsible for most home insurance claims. The Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) says the frequency, severity and cost of weather in Canada are increasing. Annual payouts from flooding, hail and windstorms increased from $100 million about 10 years ago to $1 billion between 2009 and 2012, according to IBC.

"Don't take the weather and your home insurance coverage for granted. Talk to your insurance broker to ensure that you have appropriate coverage," advises Lang. "For example, sudden and accidental bursting of plumbing pipes and appliances is covered by all residential policies however, damage caused by frozen pipes may not be."

Winter storms can strike without warning and bring with them low temperatures, high winds, significant snowfall and, on occasion, freezing rain. Being prepared is your best defense, says Lang.

One recommendation that applies whether you live in Victoria, B.C. or Swift Current, Saskatchewan: Remove weak branches and trees that could fall on your house or on power lines from wind and rainstorms or heavy snowfall.

Burst pipes from big bounces in temperature changes are a common culprit for claims, says Lang. Pipes in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls are particularly vulnerable to freezing in extremely cold weather because the entry holes for television aerial leads, cable, and telephone lines can allow cold air to reach them.

Lang provides the following additional tips:

- Insulate exposed pipes.
- Seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations near water pipes with caulking.
- Keep cabinet doors open during cold spells to allow warm air to circulate around pipes (particularly in the kitchen and bathrooms).

"Keep a slow trickle of water flowing through faucets connected to pipes that run through an unheated or unprotected space," says Lang. "Or, if you plan to go away on vacation, make sure windows are not left open, drain the water system, and arrange for a friend or family member to check on your home regularly. Many homeowner policies have strict guidelines around how frequently your home has to be checked while you are away. If you're unsure, confirm with your insurance broker." More information can be found at www.westernfinancialgroup.ca.

www.newscanada.com

Don't let your Christmas tree lead to tragedy this season

(NC)— It's the Christmas holiday season, our most treasured time of the year. It's a time of celebration, joy and sharing time with family and friends. Unfortunately, this important time can also be one marked by tragedy if precautions are not taken against accidental fire. According to the Canadian Safety Council, every year about 400 Canadians lose their lives in an accidental household fire. In fact, it's during the holiday season that the number of deaths caused by accidental household fires is at its highest.

Patrice De Luca, vice president of marketing and business development for Reliance Protectron Security Services, says the major culprit for this significant increase is the famed Christmas tree. "You need to take every possible precaution to minimize the risks of fire, especially if you choose a natural tree," he added. "Fire is one of the greatest threats to your family and home. People do not realize the emotional toll a fire can take, even if there is no loss of life."

Here are safety tips to consider from Protectron's free "Saving Lives Program":

• If possible, consider an artificial tree. They are much safer and cleaner.

• Leave the tree outside until you're ready to decorate.

• The tree stand should hold at least 1 gallon of water. It's crucial to check the water level every day.

• Detectors for smoke and carbon monoxide should be installed at strategic locations – your kitchen, stairwell, bedroom hallways and other high-traffic household areas. Monitored smoke detectors can save lives by having operators standing by 24-7 and dispatching emergency services if required (for example if fire occurs while sleeping).

• Keep the tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources.

• Use only CSA-listed lights, and no more than three strands linked together.

• Use miniature lights–which have cool-burning bulbs.

Continued on Page 6

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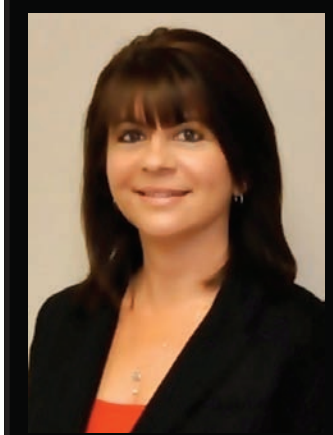

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91 HAWTHORNE
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How to prevent accidental fire during the holidays

Continued from pg.5

• Turn off the Christmas lights when you sleep, or if you leave your home for very long.

• Examine light strings each year, discard worn ones.

• Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up.

• Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords.

• Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

• Practice an escape plan at least once a year. Make sure the whole family is involved.

• Finally, make sure to dispose of your tree properly at the end of the season.

Protectron's "Saving Lives Program" is offered free to families considering home security solutions. More information on the program or on fire safety and home security is available online at www.protectron.com.

www.newscanada.com

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New technology takes the stress out of holiday entertaining

(NC) Hosting a holiday gathering is stressful, no matter whether you're someone who loves feeding a house filled with guests, or is a reluctant family member who's taking their turn.

Dinner parties can be especially challenging, from timing your menu, to doubling the recipes, to accommodating the needs of each of your guests. Assistance can be summoned however. High-tech kitchen appliances can significantly reduce entertaining stress. Increased capacity fridges and flexible rack dishwashers are just a couple of the most popular advancements. "Historically, frantic hosts had to chill beverages outside or in cumbersome buckets of ice because the fridge was over-stocked with food for the party," says Laura McGowan, a senior brand manager at LG Electronics Canada. "Our company has eliminated this juggle with the introduction of a new super capacity 3-door refrigerator that features 20 per cent more storage space and a space-saving ice maker. With this extra capacity, you are able to store beverages, groceries and pre-prepared dishes all in one place."

Gone are the stressful days of trying to squeeze several dishes of vegetables into the oven around the giant holiday roast. McGowan points out that LG's large capacity electric double oven is the largest on the market, making it easy to cook, grill or warm multiple dishes at a time.

And once the party is over and it's time to clean up, an ultra-high capacity dishwasher can help alleviate the stress of dirty dishes.

"With our most popular model, the extra capacity, flexible racks and the true steam technology allows users to fit in more dishes with every load," McGowan explains. "This means no more time wasted handwashing the delicate cups and plates that won't fit into your machine, and more time relaxing once the gathering is over."

More information on the latest kitchen technology is available online at LG.com.

www.newscanada.com

Here are some tips from LG Electronics Canada, to keep your holiday entertaining stress to a minimum

- When developing the menu, select a variety of dishes that can be made ahead of time and placed in the fridge
- Prepare a selection of meat and vegetarian options and make ample of each so you can enjoy leftovers after the event. If you're hosting children, make sure you have a few child friendly choices too
- Stock your fridge with an assortment of festive beverages. When guests arrive encourage them to help themselves
- Don't worry if everything isn't perfect. It's the holiday season. People are just happy to have an opportunity to get together.

www.newscanada.com

Holiday Décor with a modern touch

(NC) Adding a touch of holiday sparkle to a living space doesn't have to mean going overboard on tinsel. 2013 is the year of "holiday minimalism," with home décor that exudes a tasteful modern touch. Heavily adorned wreaths and ornaments will make way for natural accents, neutral colours and a simple motif that will add a touch of class to any festive home.

According to Shelli Gardner, CEO and Cofounder of papercrafting company Stampin' Up!, the simple sophistication of the 2013 holiday season announces welcome news for do-it-yourself decorators. Gardner believes that "this is the perfect time to try something new with your holiday décor, and my advice is to think in terms of simple sophistication. This year will be especially exciting for those who like to get hands on to add a personal touch to your decorations."

How to Create a Big Effect with a Simple Touch

Frame of Reference

Forget the fireplace mantel—holiday cards can become a décor statement when creatively displayed using a classic large-scale picture frame measuring at least 40 by 60 centimetres. Gardner suggests checking out a nearby antique store or repurposing a favourite frame already in use. Add a decorative touch with a splash of spray paint, staple rustic twine lengthwise across the frame, and display holiday cards from family and friends using clothes pins. Hang the frame prominently in the entrance hall, living room, or other common space that will allow the frame to be a focal point for holiday celebrations.

Celebrating a Banner Year

Nothing makes a statement like a banner, but even this holiday classic can boast a tasteful new look. Banners are a unique way to add some holiday cheer to any room, especially when created with cardstock and accents that will complement the room's existing décor and colour scheme. Purchasing a kit like Stampin' Up!'s Christmas Banner Simply Created Accessory Kit makes it easy and affordable to create accents for a holiday banner. Print letters to spell out a holiday wish on neutral cardstock and enhance each section of the banner with ribbons, rosettes and die-cut accents. Tasteful and non-traditional winter shades will add an extra punch to the finished project.

Creating holiday décor can be even more fun in a group, so decorators looking for new ideas should check out a workshop offered by a local Stampin' Up! demonstrator, located in communities across the country. Visit stampinup.ca for more information and to find a demonstrator who will help you show your holiday spirit in all of your creative projects!

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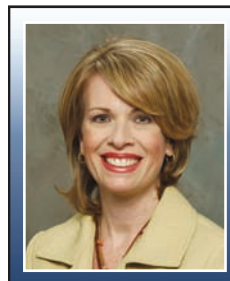

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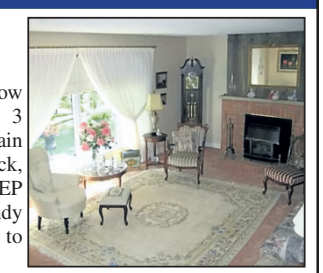
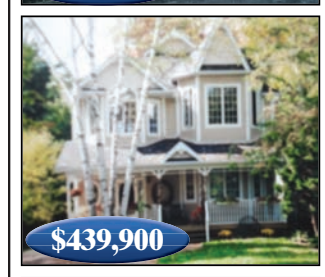
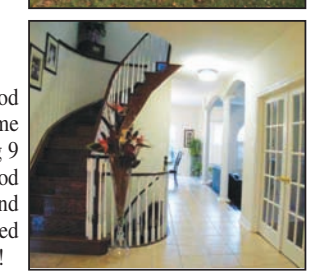




CUSTOM BEAUTY
Similar to photo. Brand new 3 bedroom home to be built on large lot in mature neighbourhood in historic Lefroy! Just a short walk to a sandy waterfront park where you can dip your toes in the lake! Park your boat at Monto Reno Marina at the end of the street and enjoy all Lake Simcoe has to offer!

SOUGHT AFTER SOUTH END
Rosebury model in quiet neighbourhood close to GO Station. This 4 bedroom home features many elegant details, including 9 foot ceilings, ceramic and oak hardwood flooring, pillar accents in the dining and family room, French doors, and a fenced yard. Call Sharon for more information!



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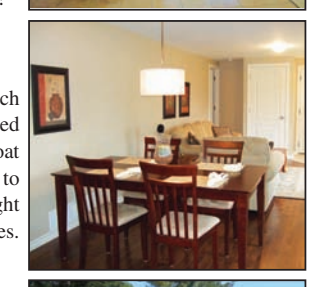

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Decorate safely and light up your home

(NC)Decorating the house is a fun activity for the whole family, but don't forget the necessary yet simple safety measures when adorning your home for the holidays. While twinkling lights and flickering aromatic candles look and smell great, they can also be dangerous if the right precautions are not taken.

To make sure your home will dazzle, the experts from leading retailer, RONA, share their top three holiday decorating safety tips:

Candles

If you will be lighting wick candles throughout your home, it is important to strategically place them out of reach of children and pets, and away from flammable decorations such as a tree or garland. Alternatively, LED candles have popped up everywhere and have a natural glow. Consider lighting up your home with different sized LED candles this season while reducing the risk of fires.

Tree

Make sure your tree is properly secured and in the right size stand. The last thing you want is your tree to topple over, destroying your ornaments or injuring someone. Be sure to measure the base of your tree before purchasing a stand. Stands with four prongs or more offer the best support. If you have a large tree, ensure the weight of the base can support the tree, especially if it is top-heavy. You will want to ensure your tree is secure enough to be kid and pet-proof so if they decide to tug on it or accidentally knock into it, it won't go anywhere.

Lights

If you use a ladder to hang lights, outdoors or indoors, it is wise to ask someone to hold the ladder in place when doing so. During the cooler months, the ground is firmer and potentially more slippery if frost, snow and ice are in the mix. Taking this extra safety precaution will minimize the risk of slips and falls and keep you in one piece for the celebrations.

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Tips for Canadians purchasing condos

(NC) According to a recent forecast from the Canadian Real Estate Association, the housing market is poised to see 3.4 per cent growth in the coming year – and more and more of us are choosing condominiums.

Jamus MacPherson, a condominium insurance expert with Western Financial Group, encourages clients to read the fine print before signing on the dotted line. "Buying a home, whether it is a condo or a single family house, is one of the biggest financial commitments you will make in your life," he says. "There are important differences between purchasing single and multi-family homes. When it comes to condos, keeping a few important details in mind can save you headaches in the long run."

To help condo buyers sort through the clutter, MacPherson suggests referring to the following checklist:

Ask questions. Knowing the building's history will give you peace of mind. Important questions to ask include: Do the unit owners own the recreational facilities as part of the common property, or does the condominium corporation lease them? How many units are rented? How much money is in the reserve fund and what major expenses, if any, are being considered in the reserve fund plan?

Schedule a comprehensive home inspection. This examination should not only include the unit you're considering, but also the building envelope and common areas. When selecting an inspector or engineer, make sure they are qualified to provide a complete and reliable inspection. This will protect your investment in the long run.

Watch for last minute changes. If you've purchased a new-build condo, there is a chance that last minute changes may be made by contractors in construction. Keep a close eye out and don't be afraid to ask questions if something isn't as was initially agreed on.

Know what your condo board will cover. Anything to do with the complex's structure is the responsibility of the condominium corporation, but you will need to secure your own insurance to cover personal property, liability or any changes you choose to make to the unit. According to MacPherson, understanding the condo corporation and the stability of the reserve funds is crucial.

"It is critical that you work with your broker to ensure that you not only protect yourself from losses to your own property, but also any costs that may be incurred from losses to the rest of the property that might be underinsured through the corporation."

Be proactive with your insurance broker. Depending on the use of your condo, your insurance needs may change. "Many condo owners don't realize that by taking on a roommate, or leasing out their unit, their current policy may no longer cover them," says MacPherson. "Updating your broker on anything from new, valuable contents to cohabitation will ensure that you're properly insured."

More information is available at www.westernfinancialgroup.ca.

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Beautiful holiday décor brings the outdoors inside

NC) As trends come and go, what was all the rage last holiday season is well, last season. So to help homeowners stay in the know with what's "trending" this year, Ulya Jensen, a home décor expert for leading retailer, RONA, shares her expertise on the latest and greatest trends for this season.

"Earthy rustic is the name of the game for holiday decorating this year. Bringing the outdoors in is really trending, and using nature to decorate the inside of your home will help keep a fresh current look; think birch bark, pinecones, fir tree sprigs, candles, warm faux fur throws and lots of sparkle and twinkle," Jensen says.

Dishing on lights, she continued: "Mirrored ornaments and trays on your dining table, coffee table or hanging from your chandelier really helps reflect interior lights and gives the allure of shining stars."

To make a big impact she suggests switching your everyday dining room chandelier for one with lots of glass or crystal, giving the dining room a more decadent feel. When it comes to tree lights, pre-lit indoor trees make decorating easy. Not only will it save you time and possible frustration, but it will look perfect as the lights are placed evenly throughout the tree.

Lastly, if you are one for hosting holiday parties, it is important to create a welcoming entrance for your guests. This year large cast iron lanterns are on trend for the front steps. Additionally, use a live wreath to scent your entryway with fresh pine greens and keep the outdoor lights neutral. A simple string of monotoned lights surrounding the window will get you the perfect holiday effect.

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Come out New Years Eve for family skate and fireworks

See www.ICECORP.org for details

community listings

NOV. 22

The Town of Innisfil celebrates its Festival of Lights and tree-lighting on Friday, Nov. 22 at the Innisfil Town Hall, from 6 to 7 p.m. Drop by to see the police mobile command post, visit with firefighters, enjoy carollers, hot chocolate and free treats. The tree-lighting takes place at 6:30 p.m. and once again there may be a special visitor from the North Pole.

NOV. 23

On Saturday, Nov. 23 join singer-songwriters Roy Hickling and Patty McLaughlin, singer and guitarist Brian Colborne (of the John Stewart Band), and Paul Snelgrove, bass, at a House Concert for CNIB Simcoe/Muskoka. The great evening of live music will be taking place at 2208 25 Sideroad in Innisfil, with doors opening at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 each, with all proceeds going to CNIB. For tickets contact GinnyC649@hotmail.com or call 705-431-7182.

NOV. 23

The fifth anniversary of the opening of the Innisfil Recreational Complex is coming up on Saturday, Nov. 23 and both the Town of Innisfil and YMCA plan to celebrate with a day of free fun. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., enjoy free skating in the Red Rink. From 2 to 4 p.m., it's free open swimming in the pool. There will be full access to the YMCA all day, and at 10:30 a.m., drop in for the cake-cutting and official remarks.

NOV. 23

South Simcoe Arts Council Holiday Pop-Up Art Market, Nov. 23 to Dec. 23 at the SSAC Gallery at the Gibson Centre, 63 Tupper St. West in Alliston. Handmade gifts by 30 local artists and artisans. See southsimcoeartscouncil.com for details

NOV. 23

The Rotary Club of Innisfil continues its support in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio world-wide. On Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rotary club members will be at Sobey's in Alcona promoting the club's Polio Plush program to raise funds for the battle against polio. Polio Plush involves the sale of a wide variety of beautiful stuffed Ganz animals for $10 each with all proceeds going directly to the initiative.

NOV. 24

The Innisfil ICECorps Santa Claus parade takes place on Sunday, Nov. 24 beginning at 1:30 p.m. The new parade route begins from the corner of the 25th Sideroad and Innisfil Beach Road and proceeds west along IBR to Jans Boulevard.

NOV. 29

Lakeside Retirement, 985 Innisfil Beach Rd., hosts its annual Wine & Cheese Gala on Friday, November 29, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Mingle and enjoy refreshments with the residents, family members and people from the community. RSVP to 705-431-8105.

DEC. 1

St. Peter's Anglican Church, 6254 Yonge St. in Churchill, hosts its annual Christmas Concert with the Sandycove Singers, on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call 705-436-9769 for details. Free-will offerings accepted.

DEC. 1

St. James United Church in Stroud presents the Innispirit Choir: singers from Churchill, Gilford, Lefroy and Stroud United Churches, singing in the spirit of Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. It will be a celebration of voices and musical talents. Admission is a donation of non-perishable food for the food bank, or a free-will offering.

DEC. 6

Innisfil Fire Station No. 1 in Alcona hosts a Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 6, starting at 6 p.m. Free pizza, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, coffee and Timbits and the tree-lighting with Innisfil's Mayor Barb Baguley at 7 p.m. along with a visit from Santa. Bring your camera. Donations of non-perishable food for the local food bank are welcomed.

DEC. 7

Lefroy United Church Christmas Bazaar, at the Grange Hall and Lefroy United Church, takes place Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Great gifts, penny and white elephant tables, and a home-made lunch at the church. Don't miss the annual quilt display up in the sanctuary. Call 705-456-2098 for details.

DEC. 12

St. Peter's Anglican Church in Churchill is hosting a Free Christmas Dinner at the Church on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. as part of the church's outreach to the community. Everyone of every denomination is welcome to attend and take part in a seasonal dinner of Turkey with all the trimmings. For more information visit www.stpeterschurchill.org

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Decrease in police budget

MIRIAM KING
Innisfil Examiner

The South Simcoe Police Serve and Bradford West Gwillimbury-Innisfil Police Services Board are on track to achieving the budget reduction promised during the police costing process.

Police Services Board Chair Lori Boudreau presented the 2014 Operating Budget to Innisfil Council on November 20, noting that the $15,726,903 total represents a 2.91% decrease from 2013.

Boudreau explained that the reduction is a result of the retirement of leases, and a decrease in salaries "reflecting ongoing reorganization of the service." Through redeployment, the Service has been able to defer the hiring of three additional sworn officers, and through attrition, has seen the number of Civilian employees shrink, from 43 to 36.

The Chair also repeated a request for the establishment of a Police Capital Reserve Fund, that would allow the South Simcoe Police to pursue a program of acquiring police vehicles instead of leasing them. "Operational leases are costly," said Boudreau. "The goal is to retire all vehicle leasing costs by 2017."

The Service is asking that the 2012 Police Budget surplus of $231,574, and estimated 2013 surplus of $242,000, be set aside in a capital reserve totalling $473,574.

Boudreau said that the Police plan to use $282,285 to purchase new cruisers in 2014, and $120,000 for new Niche software that also promises "significant capital savings", moving forward. With the addition of $93,000 already used to purchase 3 vehicles in 2013, the total capital request for the coming year is $495,285 - resulting in a $21,711 shortfall that "we are seeking from the municipalities."

South Simcoe Police Chief Rick Beazley provided further information on the cost of vehicle leases, and on planned future capital requests. He explained that plans to purchase 12 new cruisers each year, eliminating leases, would begin to produce savings as soon as 2016. The service currently has 41 vehicles.

"After 17 years of talking about leases, it's nice to have that coming forward," noted Councillor Lynn Dollin. "Historically, (the police) have leased desks and guns - you name it, we've leased it."

Chief Beazley said that the annual cost of leases other than vehicles came to about $70,000; the Service hopes to "capitalize" all of its current leases.

Innisfil Council welcomed the reduced budget, especially when assured that there has been no reduction in service - but questioned the division of costs with policing partner, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Currently, based on a cost-sharing agreement that looks at population, assessment and number of households, Innisfil picks up approximately 54% of police costs.

The Police Services Board made the same presentation to Bradford Council on November 19. At that time, Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Doug White noted, "The operating budget is at the level the Chief said it would be when we went through the costing process" - but suggested that, rather than splitting the shortfall of $21,711 for the capital budget with Innisfil, the South Simcoe Police Service could find the additional money within its own budget.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

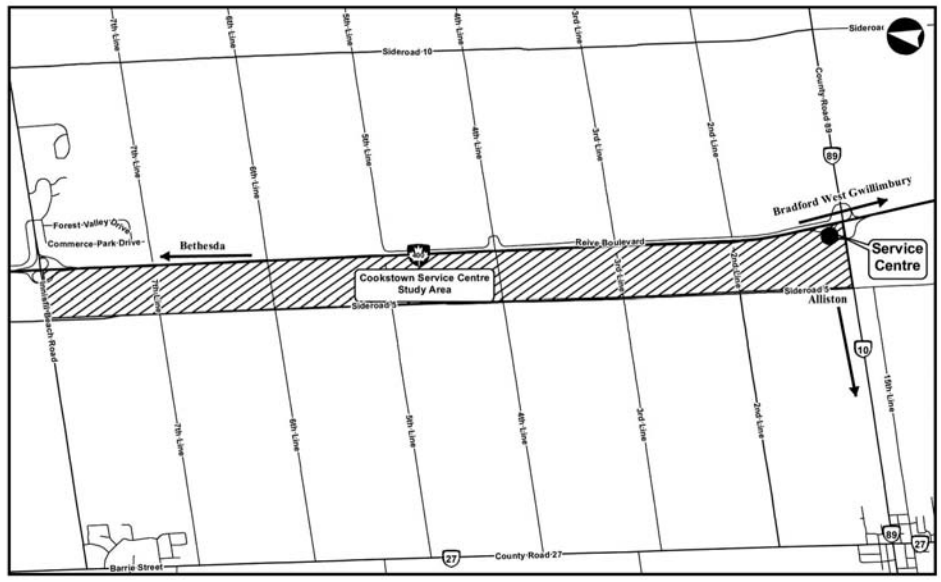
HIGHWAY SERVICE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT
Town of Innisfil, Simcoe County

THE STUDY

As part of the Ministry of Transportation's redevelopment of the Ontario Highway Service Centres located along Highways 401 and 400, the Cookstown Service Centre, located in the northwest quadrant of the Highway 400 and Highway 89 interchange, has been identified as requiring redevelopment.

Morrison Hershfield has been retained to undertake a Detailed Design and Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate redevelopment alternatives and identify the preferred solution for the redevelopment of the Cookstown Service Centre.

An EA was previously undertaken for the Cookstown Service Centre in 2011. A Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) documenting the EA process and the recommendations for the redevelopment of the service centre was published. This earlier study focused only on redevelopment options for the existing site. Since the completion of the original study, a need to relocate the site has been identified. The new study will focus on relocation options along Highway 400 southbound between Innisfil Beach Road and Highway 89 and will address the findings from the previous study.



COOKSTOWN SERVICE CENTRE STUDY AREA

THE PROCESS

This study is following the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project in accordance with the Ministry of Transportation's *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) with the opportunity for public input throughout the study. A TESR documenting the process will be prepared and will be available for review and comment upon completion of the study.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held to provide the public with an opportunity to review the Ministry's recommendations, present their comments and discuss the project with MTO staff. The PIC will follow a 'drop-in' format.

The PIC for the Cookstown Service Centre will be held on:

Tuesday, November 26, 2013
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
1354 Killarney Beach Road
South Innisfil Community Centre, Lefroy Banquet Hall, Lefroy

Your comments will assist MTO in planning the best possible service centre and will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

To comment on this project, add your name to the project mailing list or have your questions answered, please contact the undersigned. In the future, we will only contact those who have requested additional information pertaining to this project.

For further information or to be added to the mailing list for this study, please contact:

Sandra Bailey, CGA
Head, Municipal and Highway Services
Ministry of Transportation
Operations Office
301 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7R4
tel: 905-704-2997
fax: 905-704-2777
e-mail: sandra.bailey@ontario.ca

Jim Weir, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Director of Operations, Transportation
Morrison Hershfield Limited
235 Yorkland Boulevard, Suite 600
Toronto, ON M2J 1T1
tel: 416-495-4283
fax: 416-499-9658
e-mail: jweir@morrisonhershfield.com

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Careers

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW NO. 080-13
(Planning Act, R.S.O 1990, c. P.13, as amended, s. 34(12), O.Reg. 545-06)
Housekeeping By-law AMENDMENT
to adopted Comprehensive Zoning By-law 080-13

The Town of Innisfil will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 5:45 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at the Town Hall at 2101 Innisfil Beach Road**. The purpose of the Public Meeting is to obtain public comments on proposed changes to the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law 080-13. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed changes and listen to comments.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

Since Council's adoption of the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law 80-13 in July 2013, numerous omissions and corrections have been identified. These matters are common for new comprehensive zoning by-laws.

The proposed 'housekeeping' by-law seeks to make corrections and provide further clarification to improve Comprehensive Zoning By-law 80-13. Changes are proposed to definitions, general provisions, zoning provisions and mapping. These changes will improve Comprehensive Zoning By-law 80-13 and assist in its implementation for future development in the Town.

ANY PERSON may attend the Public Meeting, and make oral and/or written submissions either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. **Please note that Council may approve the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and its associated By-law on the same night (December 11, 2013), providing no comments are received that would otherwise require staff to report back to Council.**

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY that files an appeal of a decision of the Council of the Town of Innisfil in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment does not make oral submissions at the Public Meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Innisfil before the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is adopted, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all or part of the appeal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the Zoning By-law Amendment (including the staff report, Zoning By-law 080-13 and all proposed changes) is on the Town website at www.innisfil.ca. Information is also available for inspection between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., on weekdays at the Town's Customer Service Department. You may also contact Mike Eckstein, Zoning Administrator, at (705)-436-3740 ext. 3314, or by e-mail at meckstein@innisfil.ca.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF INNISFIL THIS
20th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013

KAREN FRASER, DEPUTY CLERK
TOWN OF INNISFIL
2101 INNISFIL BEACH ROAD
INNISFIL, ONTARIO, L9S 1A1

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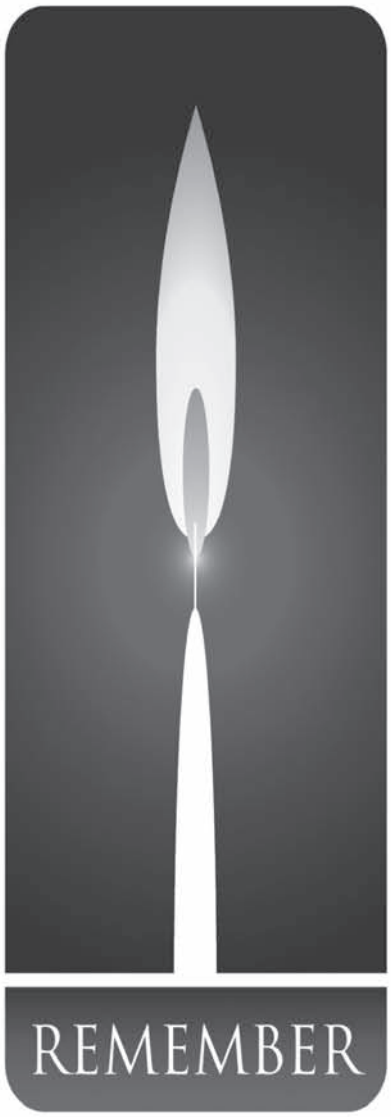

County of Simcoe celebrates opening of Georgian Village seniors facility

County of Simcoe Photo

Simcoe County Warden Cal Patterson and county councillors are joined by Honourable Mario Sergio, Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs and curler Glenn Howard to celebrate the official grand opening of Georgian Village on Thursday.

Special

PENETANGUISHENE — The County of Simcoe officially unveiled it's newest seniors facility, Georgian Village, Thursday morning.

Georgian Village has a focus on aging-in-place, and offers a variety of housing options that will help seniors find the kind of care they need for whatever stage of life they are in.

"Georgian Village has been designed to keep seniors healthy, active and engaged in the community" said Minister Sergio, Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs, one of many dignitaries on hand for the opening. "As shown by our Action Plan for Seniors, our government shares these goals to help seniors connect to their community. As part of this

Action Plan, we launched our Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide, and we have proposed the creation of Ontario's first ever seniors focused grants program."

Spanning across 20-acres, Georgian Village will house between 300-400 seniors including 143 fully accredited long-term care beds.

This new facility will help to address wait time needs for long-term care beds across the county and offers increased retirement housing options for the region's aging population.

"Georgian Village represents county council's vision and commitment to providing excellent service and innovative care solutions for our aging population," said Warden Cal Patterson. "We are here today to celebrate this extraordinary accomplishment that will meet the needs of our seniors for generations to come.

"We are deeply grateful for all the support we have received from our partners, community and donors."

Spanning across 20-acres, Georgian Village will house between 300-400 seniors including 143 fully accredited long-term care beds. This new facility will help to address wait time needs for long-term care beds across the County and offers increased retirement housing options for the region's aging population.

The new facility, which replaced the existing Georgian Manor long-term care home in Penetanguishene, combines excellent care with services and amenities designed to keep resident active and healthy.

These amenities include a fitness centre and spa, community greenhouse, woodworking shop, library, golf greens, bocce ball and shuffle board courts, walking paths, gardens, a restaurant, pharmacy, and a medical centre.

Funding came from the County of Simcoe, the Province of Ontario, the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN and many corporate and individual donors.

Residents began moving into Georgian Village in September 2013. Georgian Village, along with the county's three other long-term care homes, Trillium Manor in Orillia, Sunset Manor in Collingwood and Simcoe Manor in Beeton, received an "A standard" rating from the Ministry of Health—demonstrating exemplary standards in areas of size and functionality of building features.

Visit www.simcoe.ca for additional information.

The five housing categories include:

Long-term care home (143 beds)

Assisted living units (42 units)

Life-lease garden homes (17 units)Life-lease apartment suites (40 units)

Affordable housing suites (40 units)

Innisfil

2101 Innisfil Beach Road
Innisfil, Ontario L9S 1A1
705.436.3710
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm

Community Bulletin

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

Town Council Meetings

Wednesday December 11, 2013

5:45 pm Public Meeting – Housekeeping By-Law Amendment to Adopted Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 080-13

6:00 pm Public Meeting – Second Dwelling Unit Draft Policy

7:15 pm Regular Council Meeting

Board Committee Meetings

Off Leash Dog Park Committee
November 26, 2013 at 1:30 pm, Town Hall, Meeting Room 2

Heritage Committee Meeting
December 5, 2013 at 7:00 pm, Town Hall, Community Rooms

Accessibility Advisory Committee
December 10, 2013 at 1:00 pm, Town Hall, Community Rooms A,B

Economic Development Advisory Committee
December 12, 2013 at 1:00 pm, Town Hall, Community Rooms

Employment Opportunity

Deputy Fire Chief

This competition closes November 24, 2013.

Please visit Employment Opportunities on the Town's website for more details.

Open House

Cookstown Heritage Open House

Please drop in prior to the formal public meeting (see adjacent notice) to speak to staff and ask any questions regarding the proposed Heritage Conservation District and Community Improvement Plan.

Nov. 26 from 4pm to 7pm – Cookstown Library

Coming Soon

Tender/Bid Opportunity

C-13-128 Service Crossing Sanitary Repairs
Closing Date: Wednesday November 27th, 2013 at 2:00 pm

PQ-13-133 Residential Subdivision - Contract Administration
Closing Date: Wednesday November 27th, 2013 at 2:00 pm

P-13-136 Fire Station 1 Interior Upgrades
Closing Date: Tuesday December 3rd, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Public Meeting

NOTICE OF STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR COOKSTOWN

The Town of Innisfil will hold a Public Meeting on **Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Cookstown Public Library.** The purpose of the meeting is to obtain public comments and present information on the proposed Heritage Conservation District and Community Improvement Plan for Cookstown (in accordance with Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, Section 41, R.S.O 1990 and the Planning Act, Section 28, R.S.O 1990).

What is Proposed?

Heritage Conservation District (Refer to map below)

A Heritage Conservation District (HCD) designation is being proposed for 219 properties within Cookstown. A HCD is an area within the community that contains significant and distinct heritage character. If approved, property owners within the HCD undertaking certain external works would be required to follow policies and guidelines to protect the unique characteristics of their property. The Cookstown Heritage Conservation District Plan and Design Guidelines can be viewed at www.innisfil.ca/cookstown-heritage-conservation-district.

Community Improvement Plan

A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a tool available under Section 28 of the Planning Act of Ontario to help encourage revitalization and redevelopment within a defined area. A CIP can be used to establish grants, loans, incentives and municipal initiatives to encourage private sector investment within the defined area. The proposed Cookstown Community Improvement Plan can be viewed at www.innisfil.ca/cookstown-community-improvement-plan.

How Do I Participate?

ANY PERSON may attend the Statutory Public Meeting, and make oral and/or written submission either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Heritage Conservation District or Community Improvement Plan.

IF YOU WISH to be notified of Council's future decision regarding the proposed Heritage Conservation District or Community Improvement Plan, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Innisfil at 2101 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil, Ontario L9S 1A1.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submission at a Public Meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Innisfil before the proposed Heritage Conservation District or Community Improvement Plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of Council of the Town of Innisfil to the Ontario Municipal Board. Alternatively, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the Heritage Conservation District and Community Improvement Plan will be available for inspection between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on weekdays at the Town's Customer Service Department (2101 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil), or at the Cookstown Public Library (20 Church Street, Cookstown) during regular business hours or on the Town's website www.innisfil.ca
If you have any questions please contact:

Don Eastwood
Director of Development
705-436-3710 | ecdo@innisfil.ca

Proposed Cookstown Heritage Conservation District Boundaries

Public Meeting

Second Dwelling Unit – Draft Policy
We want your feedback!

The Town would like your feedback on a proposed draft policy that would allow for second dwelling units (e.g. basement apartments) within Innisfil, subject to certain conditions (e.g. parking requirements).

Staff will present the draft policies and you will be able to ask questions and provide your feedback. The draft policies reflect input received at the Public Open House held in October and the Second Units Survey. Final policies and all public comments will not be presented for Council adoption until early 2014.

Why develop a Second Dwelling Unit Policy?
The Town must consider policies to permit second units such as basement apartments as a result of changes to the Ontario Planning Act. Legal second units can provide important community benefits such as safe and affordable rental housing. Second units also provide economic benefits to homeowners and they support the flexible housing needs of youth, young families and seniors.

Public Meeting:
- Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 6:00 pm
- Town Hall (Council Chambers)

2101 Innisfil Beach Road, Innisfil
For more information, please visit www.innisfil.ca to view the draft policies and Staff Report or call Customer Service at 705-436-3710.

Give Generously

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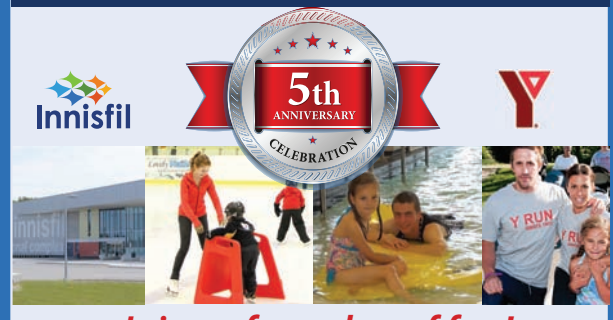

Join us for a day of fun!

When:	Saturday, November 23, 2013
Where:	7315 Yonge Street, Innisfil
10:30am:	Cake Cutting and Official Remarks
10am-2pm:	Free Skate on the Red Rink
2pm-4pm:	Free Open Swim

All activities are FREE including access to the Y!